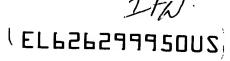
05-24-04





## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,

Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450 on May 21, 2004.

Lillian Pillitter

Serial No.:

10/669,998

Filed:

September 24, 2003

Examiner:

Gary Hartmann

Art Unit:

3671

Applicant:

Leo J. Yodock III, et al.

Title:

BARRIER DEVICE WITH EXTERNAL REINFORCEMENT STRUCTURE

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendments Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

## RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

This is responsive to the Office Action mailed May 17, 2004.

This communication confirms the telephone conversation with Examiner Hartmann on May 19, 2004, wherein it was discussed that original claims 1 through 30 from the parent case were cancelled in the transmittal papers filed with this divisional application and applicant wishes to proceed with claims 31 through 45 in this application (Group IV in the Examiner's restriction requirement).

Respectfully submitted,

**HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP** 

**CUSTOMER NO. 23573** 

By Fran L / Cut Thomas L. Kautz, Reg. No. 28,726

One East Broward Blvd. Suite 1300 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301